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## ***Fact Sheet***

### ***Accessing Global Commodity Information from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service***

Market intelligence lies at the root of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) effort to promote exports. FAS acquires data from satellite imagery, foreign statistics, and through its global network of offices in over 130 countries. In Washington, DC, FAS' Commodity and Marketing Programs Area (CMP) has the responsibility to analyze this information along with the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Economic Research Service and other agencies, to publish short term world production, supply and demand estimates monthly. FAS' commodity knowledge supports USDA on issues of market access, food aid, export credits, and technical assistance and is a source of unbiased information for the market.

#### **FAS Online and New Data Products**

You can tap into the FAS information network of agricultural counselors, attaches, and trade officers stationed abroad, and analysts, marketing specialists, negotiators, and related specialists in Washington, DC through the Internet at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov> Each of CMP's nine Divisions maintain and update their own web sites with analysis, circulars, and timely news items, often related to market access or competitive issues faced by U.S. exporters.

**U.S. Trade Database Online:** USDA has released a searchable, web-based U.S. export and import trade system with data for agricultural, fishery, and forestry products. This dynamic web based system is designed to service frequent requests for trade data from farmers; industry associations; federal, congressional, and state officials; university researchers; and journalists. The new database is searchable at any level in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Find U.S. Trade Online at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/>

**PS&D Online:** USDA's Production, Supply and Demand forecasts are now Online in a web-enabled browser. This new database gives users the capability to instantly access and download USDA forecasts after lookup and provides faster electronic access to forecasts such as for fruits and vegetables, that are not part of USDA's lookup procedures. Users may select from a menu of pre-defined tables categorized by commodity or commodity group, or create custom queries for specific commodities, attributes and/or countries. The system enables you to view queried data on screen or download it as a file that you can open with your spreadsheet or database program. Use this system at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/psd/>

#### **USDA's Crop Explorer Helps Analysts Track AgroMeteorological Data Worldwide**

A new on-line web site, Crop Explorer, provides easy-to-read crop condition information for most agricultural regions in the world. With this data, U.S. and international producers, traders, researchers, and the public can access weather and satellite information used by agricultural economists and scientists who predict crop production worldwide. The site includes more than 9500 charts and pages. Weather

and satellite data are updated every ten days. The crop explorer site can be found at internet address: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/pecad>**. Click on Crop Explorer. For further information, please contact the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division at (202) 720-0888 or: [pecad@fas.usda.gov](mailto:pecad@fas.usda.gov).

### **World Production, Market and Trade Reports (Circulars)**

The *World Market and Trade Reports* provide the latest analysis and data on a number of agricultural commodities, outlining the current supply, demand and trade estimates for the United States and many major foreign countries. FAS releases monthly updates for cotton, grain, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables, and world agricultural production and twice yearly updates on meat and dairy products. Field crop publications are released on the business day following release of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). Horticultural publications are published at beginning of each month. Coffee and sugar estimates are released twice a year. FAS is experimenting with early release versions of several commodity circulars including cotton, tobacco, and world production. These releases have been popular with users and we plan more early data releases. Find FAS' current commodity information at **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/currwmt.html>**

### **Global Agricultural Information Network (Attache Reports)**

This electronic reporting system, covering all major crop and livestock products, provides timely information to U.S. exporters and commodity analysts and is a resource to aid USDA in determining global production, supply, and demand estimates. It provides information on policies and market demand that affect the sales of U.S. agricultural products worldwide. Reaching beyond traditional commodity reporting, this system also provides updates on high value foods, fishery and forestry products, trade policy monitoring, and sector reports on food processors and the hotel and restaurant industry abroad. FAS' foreign based staff submits about 3,000 reports each year. You may register to receive automatically via List Service reports on a specific country, commodity, or issue. Reports are at FAS Online: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/faspush/default.asp>**

### **AgExporter Magazine**

A monthly magazine for businesses selling farm products overseas and it provides tips on exporting, identifies markets with the greatest sales potential, and updates readers on major market access issues. A recent edition tackled issues in Indonesia, Japan, and Northern Europe. Register for AgExporter at FAS Online.

### **Export Sales Report**

Weekly export sales reports serve as a timely early warning system on the possible impact of agricultural obligations on U.S. supplies and prices. The data can be used, for example, to assess the level of export demand, to determine where markets exist, and to assess the relative position of different commodities in those markets. This monitoring system provides a constant stream of up-to-date information on the quantity of U.S. agricultural commodities that are sold abroad. Find Export Sales at: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>**

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